

THE FRA

Elbert
Hubbard
Editor
and
Publisher
East Aurora
N. Y.



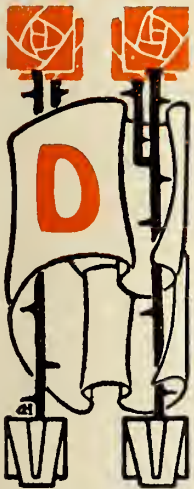
Twenty-five
cents
per copy
Two dollars
per year
Foreign Postage
Seventy-five Cents

Vol. 15

JUNE, 1915

No. 3

THE GOLDEN RULE AS A WORKING POLICY



DOING unto others as you would be done by requires faith in your fellowmen. Faith in your fellowmen implies a belief that down deep in the heart of every man, somewhere, is the germ of goodness. Your faith may be a vitalizing ray of sunshine reaching that particular germ. In order to perceive the germ of goodness beneath the rough husk of the workaday world, imagination is required. Imagination is the power to see the unseen. ¶ Faith and imagination mean prescience, prophetic intelligence, or scientific psychology.

When Marshall Field adopted the maxim, "The customer is always right!" he displayed great prescience. ¶ And the order went forth that no employee should ever dispute the word of a customer; so all claims were adjusted instantly on the word of the customer. ¶ We all like to be thought honest and true. Marshall Field complimented his customers—his maxim made friends—the trade increased. So successful was the policy of faith in the customer that today all great department-stores do business on the money-back basis.

Warden Osborne of Sing Sing says that prisoners who do not respond to the Golden Rule are diseased in body and mind and must be classed as sub-normal.

"Customers first!" is a matter of politeness; also it is a matter of diplomacy. And as the word "diploma" means a certificate of merit, so is diplomacy itself an example of truth carried into action.

Diplomacy is politeness—consideration for the rights and feelings of others. It tokens kindness and faith in others. ¶ Diplomacy is not a mere surface pretense.

Insincere politeness is counterfeit diplomacy. If two men meet in a hallway and begin to converse, then argue, and finally fight, it is a reasonably sure sign that diplomacy has broken down.

¶ And the reason it has broken down is because one or both of the men lack either one or both of two things. These things are commonsense and right intent. ¶ Burglars lack both; and the proof that burglars lack commonsense is that they adopt a very costly way of securing things.

Men who consider themselves better, wiser and more able than other men will not be diplomatic.

¶ Such know nothing of the Golden Rule, save as a theory. They believe in the rascality of others, not their goodness. Hence they appeal to force.

It is the same with nations. When diplomacy breaks down, war follows. And war never occurs until diplomacy is cast aside.

If governmental diplomats were really diplomatic, war would be an impossibility.

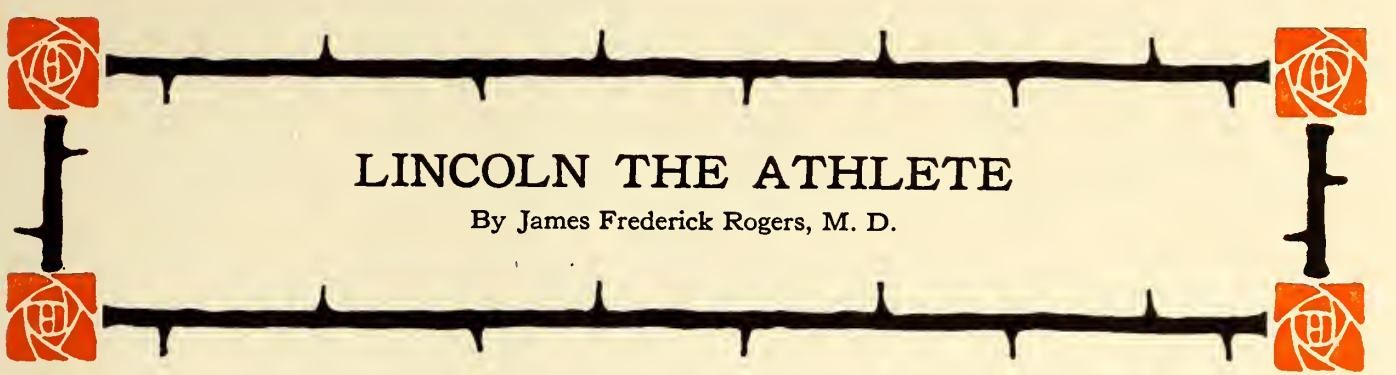
The Golden Rule in trade has been proven a safe, sound and paying policy.

Salesmen who sell goods have to sell themselves first. We give no orders to people we regard as possible rogues, cheats, pretenders and hypocrites. ¶ Diplomats who resort to violence are salesmen who have failed to sell themselves. In order to "sell yourself" you must be both buyer and seller. You must in imagination put yourself in place of the other man. Then only can you do unto others as if you were the others. ¶ Personal quarrels and national wars mean that somebody was n't big enough to live up to the Golden Rule.



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2015

<https://archive.org/details/lincolnathlete00roge>



LINCOLN THE ATHLETE

By James Frederick Rogers, M. D.

THE two most athletic figures in the history of our country, if not of all history, were those of Washington and Lincoln.

¶ In appearance Lincoln was as homely and awkward as Washington was handsome and full of grace; but in physical prowess they were well matched, and the accounts of their feats of strength read very much alike. Probably many of these stories have become exaggerated in the telling, but it is only of a Hercules that Herculean tales are told. While both excelled in athletic sports, both preferred mental accomplishments to physical feats; both were surveyors; both took part in Indian wars; finally, both became President in the most trying times the nation has seen. Here the likeness of their experiences ends; for Washington was born and bred in comparative comfort and culture, and sought the primitive life of the wilderness temporarily, and rather from pleasure than from necessity. Lincoln, until he was of age, knew only poverty, toil and the rudest society, and only by mighty efforts dragged himself into less crude surroundings. The homely lines of his countenance, which appeal to us more than the statuesque repose of his great predecessor, were carved deep by his trying experiences and the sympathies they developed.

Lincoln's Parentage

LINCOLN came of a line of vigorous pioneers. His father is described as five feet ten inches high; he weighed one hundred eighty pounds, and "was sinewy and brave." His mother was of medium stature, slender and symmetrical, good-looking, if not beautiful, as a girl, but early bent and worn by her hard life.

The home which first sheltered Lincoln was a rude, one-room cabin, nearly bare of furniture or furnishings of any sort; and the other conditions by which he was surrounded were so rude and primitive that only a sturdy child could have survived.

As he grew up, he lived the open-air life. He "ran the woods" with the older boys, hunting woodchucks and treeing coons. He was early set to work "bringing tools, carrying water, picking berries, and planting seed." ❧

His Indiana Home

THE removal of the family to Indiana was a change from the woods to the backwoods, from the frying-pan into the fire, as far as conditions of living were concerned. Their new dwelling-place, which Abraham helped to build, was a "half-faced camp" fourteen feet square, merely a shed with three sides, open to the weather on the fourth side—a shelter "less snug than the winter cave of a bear." After the first season, this abode was exchanged for what was little improvement—a floorless, windowless cabin, without even a deerskin to close the doorway. Abraham had for his bed a heap of dry leaves and old clothes, with skins for covering, in a corner of the loft, to which he climbed by means of pegs driven in the wall.

There was plenty of food, but corn bread, baked in a Dutch oven, was the chief item on the bill of fare. Potatoes, which were the only plentiful vegetable, were often served raw, as we would serve apples. There was abundance of deer and bear meat, pheasants, wild turkeys, ducks, squirrels, fish and wild fruits. ❧ Young Abraham's scanty shirt and trousers were of coarse, homemade material and he was crowned with a coonskin cap.

His attendance of a few months at the district school did not detract from his vigor. The curriculum was not crowded in those days; there were no problems of ventilation; and about the only physical disaster that came to any pupil was a sound whipping from the master. ❧ ❧

His Boyhood

THE boy was large and remarkably strong for his years, and already he was given plenty of hard work to do. He said of himself

that when he was about eight years old, his father "placed an ax in his hand, and till within his twenty-third year he was almost constantly handling that most useful instrument." He cleared land, split firewood and fence-rails, plowed, reaped with a sickle, thrashed with a flail, and did carpentering. When not working for his father, he was hired out to the neighbors for any and all work.

During the noon recess and after work hours he enjoyed swimming, jumping, running and wrestling—enjoyed them the more because he excelled in these sports. Unlike Washington, he cared little for dancing. He had no liking for hunting, after shooting his first wild turkey, at the age of eight: he had too much feeling for the wild life. He hated fishing, but went many times with a district-school teacher who was fond of the sport. Lincoln went with him to catch the schoolmaster's talk and to learn from him of Shakespeare and Burns.

¶ He frequently walked fifteen or twenty miles to secure books, to hear speeches or to attend debates. For a few months he ran a ferryboat, and when nineteen years of age he worked the bow oars on a boat bound for New Orleans. He is described at this time as "a long, thin, gawky boy, dried up and shriveled."

Illinois

IN Eighteen Hundred Thirty the family was on the move again, this time for Illinois. Here young Lincoln helped his father build another rude cabin, split rails to fence ten acres of land, and raised a crop of corn.

On coming of age, he was without sufficient money to purchase a much-needed pair of new trousers, and for these he "split four hundred rails for each yard of the material used." The trousers were secured more quickly than they would have been by most young men, for Lincoln was a famous chopper; as his cousin says, "If you heard him felling trees in the clearing, you would say there were three men at work by the way the trees fell." After the Black Hawk War, in which Lincoln was a volunteer, he thought of making use of his strength as a blacksmith, but instead became a storekeeper.

Partly because of his great physical powers he was the recognized peacemaker in the rude and lawless community in which he lived; and as candidate for political office his physical prowess helped him not a little in winning the hearts of the rougher classes.

Finally, this sinewy giant was chosen to wrestle with all his combined powers of body and mind with the gravest problems of a nation, and to bear on his shoulders the burden of sorrow and trial of a great people.

An Excellent Constitution

THE picture of Lincoln, with its expression of quiet humor or of gentle sadness, is a familiar one. It was a homely face, with a high, broad forehead overhung with stiff, black hair; with dark-gray eyes, clear and very expressive; high cheek-bones and large mouth. He was six feet four inches tall, and weighed about one hundred eighty pounds. He was "thin through the chest, narrow across the shoulders, and stooped slightly as he walked. His complexion was very dark, his skin yellow and shriveled." His limbs were long, and he had large hands and feet. "There was no grace in his movement, but an expression of awkwardness combined with force and vigor."

¶ Like most great men, Lincoln was exceedingly temperate and simple in his habits. Though his table at Springfield was famed for the excellence of its Kentucky dishes, he was a moderate eater. He used neither tobacco nor intoxicating drinks, and he was a strong advocate of total abstinence. While a lawyer he kept a horse and a cow, and took care of both with his own hands; and he chopped all the firewood for the house.

In the stress of affairs in Washington he often became indifferent not only as to the character of his meals, but as to the time they were served. "It seemed some weeks as if he neither ate nor slept." He was never sick; but during the war, "the anxiety, responsibility, care, thought, disasters, defeats, and the injustice of his friends, wore upon his giant frame, and his nerves of steel became at times irritable." He walked and rode about the capital; but when others fled its heat and dust, he remained at his post.

The physical history of this wonderful man may be summed up in the remark of his friend, Nat Grigsby, "He had an excellent constitution and took care of it." It served him and his country nobly until shattered by the bullet of the assassin.



Once we thought work was a curse; then it came to us that it was a necessary evil; and yesterday the truth dawned upon us that it is a blessed privilege.